



CASE STUDY

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND

Cloud-based Microsoft Project Server promotes the use of structured, easy-to-access project management within the European Investment Fund.

Based in Luxembourg, the European Investment Fund's (EIF) central mission is to support Europe's micro, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) by helping them to access finance. EIF designs and develops venture and growth capital, guarantees and microfinance instruments which specifically target this market segment. In this role, EIF fosters EU objectives in support of innovation, research and development, entrepreneurship, growth, and employment. EIF is part of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group and is owned by the EIB (62.1%), the European Commission (30%) and twenty four public and private banks and financial institutions (7.9%).

THE ISSUE

Since its creation at EIF in 2008, the Project Management Office (PMO) unit was using an open source project management tool that had been tailored and developed to meet its specific needs. However, given the growth of the activities, the team realised it needed a more sustainable toolset.



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THE SOLUTION

Microsoft Project Server was chosen and the EIF selected CPS, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner to design, configure and deploy the solution. An online pilot installation was developed to give EIF a live environment, set to their specifications so that they could fully test the toolset and then make the final decision as to whether to invest in the development and roll out of a full implementation. The pilot stage was successful and CPS was given the go ahead to build and configure the final Microsoft Project Server solution hosted online.

The hosted, cloud-based Project Server environment was set up to meet EIF's strict security and access protocols and provide a 99.9% up-time guarantee.





Commenting on the decision to go online, Silvia Manca, Project and Change Manager at the EIF explains;

“For us the decision was simple. Moving to an online hosted version, saved us from having to invest in internal systems and the fast set up meant we could go live within weeks. CPS took care of everything from behind the scenes and worked remotely to provide the design, configuration and the hosted environment, making the whole implementation process seamless and very stress-free for us.”



EIF uses the system to manage a wide variety of projects with up to 20 projects active at any one time. The team was trained by the CPS consultants so they are now relatively self-supporting in terms of making routine changes to the system. For more complex adjustments, the CPS Support Desk connect directly via a remote desktop link to build and deliver new reports or apply updates and configuration changes.

THE BENEFITS



Silva explains;

“The main positives for the PMO team focusing on an online solution have been:”

- Rapid ‘go live’. Remote working saved the organisation time due to the fast online implementation
- Money saved. No new internal systems or upgrades to existing equipment were required.
- Environmentally friendly. By working remotely with the CPS team the system maintenance and updates are carried out online meaning no travel (or travel expenditure) is required.
- Scalable. As our team grows, so can the solution without the need for additional investment.
- It has consolidated our repository so that everything is now accessible from one central location and the tool provides complete end to end management for our entire project life cycle.
- The whole team can access the tool remotely making project updates much simpler and user friendly.
- The CPS experts are always available online or on the telephone to assist and support us – nothing is ever too much trouble. Any issues are solved quickly as we have a dedicated account manager who knows our system and understands how we work.

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NEXT STEPS

The flexible online solution delivered to the EIF has proved to be invaluable in the day-to-day running of the PMO and the team is currently working with CPS to develop new reports to maximise the benefits that the system can deliver to the organisation. Additionally, in order to support the growth of the project management discipline within the organisation, the tool is also being gradually deployed outside of the PMO boundaries.

TALK TO US TODAY!

CPS, Regal House, 4 Station Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1NZ
t +44 (0)1628 895600 | e hello@cps.co.uk | w www.cps.co.uk

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